

# PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

610 North Fairbanks Court 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611

**VIA FAX: 202-418-2802**

July 20, 2004

Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Commissioner Copps:


I am writing to strongly urge the FCC to oppose adding any new charges and/or fees to enhanced service prepaid calling card calls.

These enhanced prepaid calling cards are vital to keeping servicemen and servicewomen in touch with family and friends while they are stationed across the country or abroad. These cards are easy to use, inexpensive and fulfill a clear need among servicemen and servicewomen who are without mobile phones or who might be constantly rotated.

Current, dynamic competition has dramatically lowered connection costs, particularly long distance costs. That is why I am so concerned that large, unfair in-state access fees and other charges may soon be placed on these calls!

America's servicemen and servicewomen rely on the current calling card system. Instituting new fees on prepaid calling cards will make it more costly and difficult for the men and women fighting for our country to keep in contact with their loved ones. Please reject any petition to add new charges and fees to prepaid calling cards.

Sincerely,



Edward C. Tracy



USO WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
2111 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 1200  
Arlington, VA 22201

Phone (703) 908-8400  
Fax (703) 908-8401  
www.uso.org

July 16, 2004

RECEIVED

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman, The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Re: Support for AT&T pre-paid calling card filing (Docket 03-133)

Dear Chairman Powell:

The USO (United Services Organization) is chartered by the Congress as a non-profit charitable corporation. It is endorsed by the President of the United States and the Department of Defense.

The USO's mission is to provide morale, welfare and recreation service to uniformed military Personnel. That's why the USO established "Operation Phone Home", our extremely successful project to provide free pre-paid calling cards to service members, 95% of who use pre-paid calling cards.

These pre-paid calling cards are a lifeline for many troops serving far away from their friends and families. That's why the USO, just as we did in August of 2003, strongly urges the FCC's support of AT&T's filing for declaratory judgment on enhanced calling card services.

If the FCC subjects these prepaid card calls to intrastate access charges and USF, the price consumers pay for these calls would increase by nearly 20%. New access charges would disrupt the success of "Operation Phone Home". It would directly interfere with the ability of military men and women to phone home from far away, because as costs rise to providers, they will quickly be passed along to consumers - including men and women in uniform.

The FCC has an obligation to stop this from happening. Please support AT&T's petition on Docket 03-133.

Sincerely,

  
Edward A. Powell  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Daniel Piatt  
66 Hollis Street  
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Commissioner Copps:

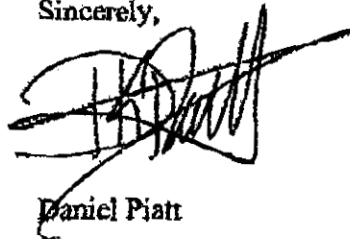
I understand that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will soon be considering whether or not to add additional local calling fees onto pre-paid calling cards. I urge you to refrain from doing so.

Pre-paid calling cards are one of the easiest and most affordable ways to make long distance calls. Because it is such a competitive industry, I can search around for the most competitive rates. But if additional fees are added and prices go up, it certainly won't make it as appealing a service as it is now.

It is possible to find calling cards as low as 3 cents per minute, with no monthly fees. By contrast, calling long distance from a stationary line has a set monthly fee, plus a per minute rate of 5 to 10 cents a call.

This seems like an attempt to take additional money from people around the nation who can least afford it. Please consider my request when making a decision on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Piatt', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Piatt

## **MILLERICK FINANCIAL SERVICES**

---

July 20, 2004

**RECEIVED**

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Copps :

As the owner of a small business, I have often found that most effective way to organize some of my telephone expenses is by utilizing pre-paid calling cards. I look for the most affordable rate, then can monitor the usage on my card.

It is a convenient and organized way to track my expenses. For this reason, I was very concerned to hear that there is an attempt by the Bell Companies to add hidden fees to this service. I have also heard that their proposal could add charges that are 20 times higher then the current charges.

Their argument that these calls should be considered in-state calls is just ridiculous. If other calling card users are like me, a majority of the calls placed using the cards are long distance.

This is obvious just an attempt to charge telephone users more money. Please ensure that we continue to be charged fairly and competition is allowed to flourish.

Regards,



Shawn Millerick  
President

Phone: 466-8064 Fax: 466-7662

**Senator David Goodman**

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 13 2004**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**Fax**

**To:** Commissioner Copps

**From:** Lisa Owen

**Fax:** 202-418-2802

**Pages:** 2

**Phone:**

**Date:** 7/22/2004

**Re:** Prepaid Calling Cards

**CC:**

☐ **Urgent**    ☐ **For Review**    ☐ **Please Comment**    ☐ **Please Reply**    ☐ **Please Recycle**

**DAVID GOODMAN**

State Senator

Senate Building, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone 614-466-8064

Fax 614-466-7662

**OHIO SENATE**

3rd District

**COMMITTEES:**

Chairman, Judiciary

Committee for Civil Justice

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Criminal Justice

Health, Human Services and

Aging Committee

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AUG 13 2004

July 22, 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Copps,

Many of my constituents use prepaid calling cards to control their monthly telephone expenses. Consumers can shop for the best price and monitor the minutes remaining on cards. It's a good way to ensure that telephone costs come in on budget month after month.

With so many other uncertainties in the business world right now, consumers like being able to count on the consistent expense control with pre-paid calling cards. For this reason, I'm very concerned about the Bell Companies wanting to add hidden charges to pre-paid calling cards. The proposal they've made will add charges that are 20 times higher than the charges now included in the pre-paid card's prices.

The Bells are arguing that pre-paid card calls should be considered in-state calls and taxed the same way. In fact, many calls made with prepaid cards are long-distance calls. Consumers call a toll-free number, listen to a message, and then dial their call. Clearly, pre-paid card calls should be assessed only interstate access charges, not the higher in-state access charges.

The Bell Companies make billions of dollars a year. The in-state fees they're seeking bear no resemblance to the Bells' actual costs. They're exorbitant and unnecessary. The Bells are completely compensated by long-distance access fees already in place for calling card calls.

I agree that only interstate access charges should apply to pre-paid calling card calls, not in-state fees. Only if interstate charges are protected can long-distance phone companies continue to offer small businesses and consumers low rates for pre-paid calling cards, a nice respite from inflationary prices in other markets. The FCC should reject the Bells' proposal for adding in-state fees to pre-paid calling cards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Goodman".

David Goodman

State Senator

3<sup>rd</sup> District

# FLORIDA COMPETITIVE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

VIA FACSIMILE

July 23, 2004

The Honorable Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Re: Pre-paid calling card docket (Docket 03-133)

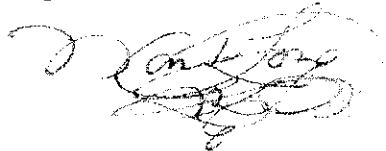
The Florida Competitive Carriers Association (FCCA) is deeply concerned over BellSouth's and Verizon's position in this docket to assess intrastate access charges on prepaid calling card enhanced services. We believe this position to be both contrary to past FCC policies and counter to the long efforts by the FCC and states to bring intrastate and interstate access charges to parity.

BellSouth's and Verizon's position appears contrary to the FCC's long-standing policy that enhanced services are interstate in nature. Attempting to apply intrastate access charges on calls that clearly meet the FCC's definition of an interstate enhanced service flies in the face of this policy.

Additionally, BellSouth's and Verizon's desires in this docket countermand the FCC's and state commissions' continued efforts to end the disparity between interstate and intrastate access charges. Attempting to assess intrastate access on yet another service does not further this goal, but rather helps perpetuate this inequality. Because of this discrepancy, here is yet another attempt to arbitrage these rates to BellSouth's and Verizon's financial advantage.

For these reasons, the FCCA urges the FCC to reject BellSouth's and Verizon's position in this docket.

Regards,



Mark Long  
Executive Director

P.O. Box 181023

850.562.9451

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32318



AALDEF@30: Standing for Justice

July 15, 2004

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AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), I urge the FCC not to place new and higher access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services. New charges would increase the price of services for thousands of low-income and fixed-income individuals, who rely on prepaid calling cards to stay connected.

AALDEF is a 30-year old, New York-based organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans through litigation, advocacy and community education. We represent Asian immigrant workers, tenants and other low-income people who are often not fully proficient in English.

For low- and fixed-income individuals, prepaid calling card services are an important means of staying in touch with friends and family across the country. In fact, prepaid cards may be the only means for disadvantaged consumers to make telephone calls within a tight budget.

The FCC should not change its policy by imposing new "in-state" access charges and fees on calling cards. Such a policy would be highly detrimental to low-income Asian American consumers.

I urge the FCC to make sure that prepaid calling cards remain free of these extra charges and fees.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret Fung  
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

AALDEF ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND  
99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor New York, New York 10013  
Tel. 212.966.5932 Fax. 212.966.4303 2004gala@aaldef.org



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
5<sup>th</sup> District, Department of Illinois  
C/O  
Robert E. Coulter Jr. Post No. 1941  
900 South LaGrange  
LaGrange, Illinois 60525-2936  
(708) 354-3300

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AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

July 21, 2004

Dear Members of the FCC:

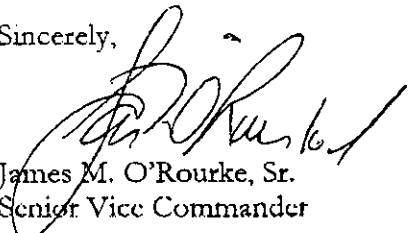
Re Opposition to Proposed Rate Change for Phone Cards

As you know, our service men and women routinely use the prepaid calling cards to stay connected with family, friends and loved ones while stationed across the country or abroad. I am notifying you that I object to the Federal Communications Commission consideration of a ruling that would significantly increase the costs that apply to enhanced prepaid calling cards, resulting in sharp price increases for the tens of millions of consumers who use them - a large portion of which are military personnel.

Research shows that 95% of military personnel use prepaid cards. Today, these cards provide extremely low calling rates to consumers. If you subject these calls to new access charges, the price that consumers pay for these calls would increase by nearly 20%. This increase will adversely affect the cost for military personnel using these cards, and will impact pricing for Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the FCC to reject any new rate increases to enhanced prepaid calling cards.

Sincerely,

  
James M. O'Rourke, Sr.  
Senior Vice Commander

Founded 1976  
**ASIAN**  
**BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

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Turner Construction Co.

Union Bank of California

U.S. Small Business Administration

Verizon

The Walt Disney Company

WellPoint Health Networks

Wells Fargo Bank

July 21, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street, S.W.  
 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the Asian Business Association of Los Angeles, Inc. (ABA), I am writing because our members are deeply concerned about a potential change in FCC policy that would impose new, hidden access charges and fees on pre-paid calling cards.

The ABA represents Asian business owners to promote and improve the climate for small businesses and to educate our members about proposed government policies that would impact them.

Pre-paid calling card services are an important means for Asian-Americans, particularly those on low and fixed incomes, to stay in touch. Most Asian-Americans are born overseas, arriving here without bank accounts or credit histories to get phone service in their homes. Pre-paid calling cards allow consumers to stay in touch and connected in an affordable manner. As a result, the Asian-American community is among the fastest-growing markets for these pre-paid cards, as 10% of Asian-American households have used these cards.

In addition, small businesses market nationwide and sell pre-paid cards in humble storefront and convenience stores and sophisticated on-line marketing operations. Imposing additional fees on pre-paid cards will raise the price and decrease the opportunity for small businesses to sell these cards.

Moreover, I understand that the in-state access charges that the FCC may impose would be remitted to the local telephone company, even if that local telephone company does not provide the long-distance service sold on the particular calling card. This corporate subsidy arrangement strikes me as unfair. In short, imposing these fees would amount to taking money directly from consumers and small businesses and placing it in the pockets of these large local telephone companies.

I urge the FCC not to impose higher access charges and fees on pre-paid calling cards. If you do, many of the nation's most price-sensitive telephone consumers and small businesses will immediately feel the burden.

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Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of the Secretary



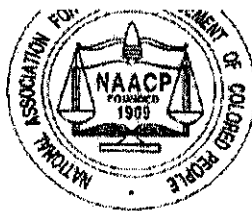
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Jou".

Joseph Jou  
President

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer

*NAACP*



*We Harnessed The Past . . . Help Us  
Secure The Future . . . Join Now!*

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AUG 13 2004

REV. DORRIS ROBERTS  
President

MR. CURTIS ROY  
1st Vice President

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2nd Vice President

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Secretary

MR. PHILLIP O'BANNON  
Assistant Secretary

MR. SYLVESTER BAKER  
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MRS. JOSEPHINE THORNHILL  
Assistant Treasurer

MRS. BETTY SEASTRONG  
Parliamentarian

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 03-133**

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

During last week's NAACP Annual Convention, hundreds of attendees were outraged to learn that the Commission is considering an increase in the fees charged for calls made via pre-paid calling cards. I write to you today with the hope that you will maintain the affordability of calling cards for low-income minorities.

Pre-paid calling cards are the primary means of communication for many African-Americans; an estimated 70% of households have used the cards. The cards also offer a reliable means for those living on substandard incomes. Some 60% of card users earning less than \$20,000 annually report making calls regularly.

The cards are cost-effective and allow families to stay in touch regardless of income. But the value extends beyond mere correspondence. For Americans who can't afford (or don't have sufficient credit history) to establish home phone service, calling cards offer a vital avenue for contacting potential employers and physicians and for completing many of life's daily duties.

The last few years have been hard enough for African Americans living along the poverty line – unemployment is up 28% since 2001 and consumer prices for fuel and dairy are on the rise. The last thing they need is to face new fees tacked on to low cost telephone services, particularly given the fact that it is the large, local phone companies that will benefit most from the additional revenue.

Thus, I challenge you not to impose additional fees on pre-paid calling cards and to stand by current policy, which has ensured affordable phone service for so many Americans.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Jern III

**CHICAGO SOUTHSIDE BRANCH**  
**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**  
 800 East 78th Street - Chicago, Illinois 60619  
 Phone: 773-487-9600 Fax: 773-487-9633

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

July 16, 2004

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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AUG 13 2004

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals opposed to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates -- in many cases, dramatically higher rates -- for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

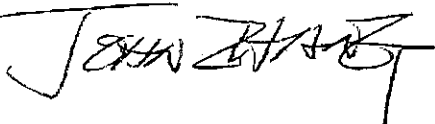
The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state -- let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

  
ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy (MAJ)  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Michael Powell  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
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Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

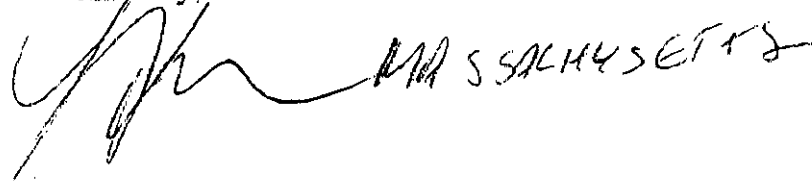
The FCC should **not** impose new access charges and fees upon prepaid calling cards. If you move to increase the cost of these cards, you will simply drive up the cost for minority or disadvantaged individuals to stay in touch in their communities.

Asian-Americans, including Chinese-Americans, are among the fastest adopters of pre-paid cards. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used them, and this number is growing. Moreover, the affordability of pre-paid cards is of the utmost importance to low- and fixed-income consumers, since they offer an easy, economical way to stay in touch with friends and relatives across the country.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest local telephone companies would be the biggest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Salyers", is written over a horizontal line.

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

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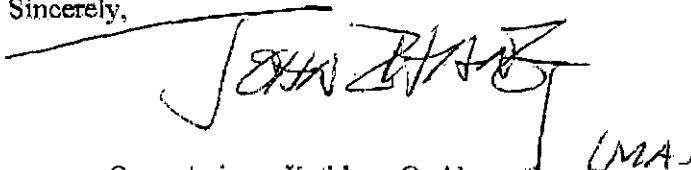
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But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Hanft". To the right of the signature is the handwritten text "UMA".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
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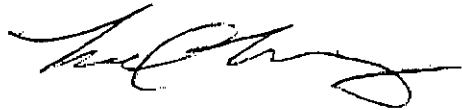
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Sincerely,

 Michael Tsang NY

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator  
Senator



July 16, 2004

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Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
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Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

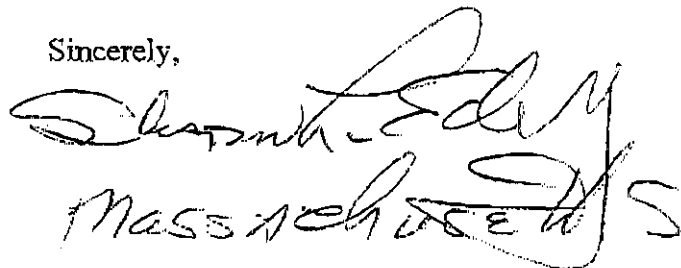
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Asian-Americans, including Chinese-Americans, are among the fastest adopters of pre-paid cards. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used them, and this number is growing. Moreover, the affordability of pre-paid cards is of the utmost importance to low- and fixed-income consumers, since they offer an easy, economical way to stay in touch with friends and relatives across the country.

With other goods like gas and milk rising these days, we should not now be faced with rising telephone costs as well. In particular, many low-income households who are on fixed incomes depend upon prepaid service because they cannot meet the credit rating or hefty deposit requirements that local phone companies insist upon before getting a phone. With prepaid cards, consumers can make calls from payphones or the telephones of family members and neighbors. They can use these cards to stay "connected" as they look for jobs, hunt for housing, or schedule many of the other daily appointments that we all have.

I simply find it unimaginable that the FCC would impose new charges and fees on these cards. Some of the nation's largest local telephone companies would be the biggest recipients of such charges. **The FCC should stand up for consumers and make sure that these charges will not apply to prepaid calling cards.**

Sincerely,



Shashank Edalati

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2004

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Michael Powell  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
Commissioner Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

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Sincerely,

*Carmen Mendez*  
*Maryland*

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

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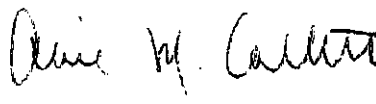
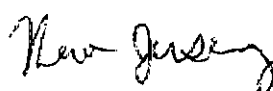
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July 16, 2004

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C. Chay Way  
New Mexico

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

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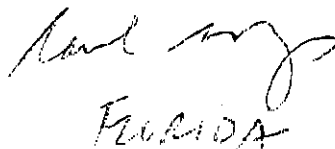
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Paul M. Ryan

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

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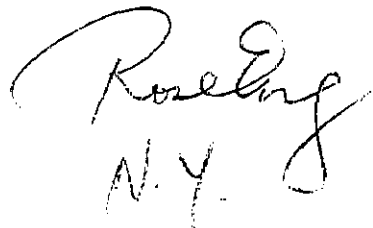
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rose E." followed by "N.Y." below it.

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

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Sincerely,

*Susan Orr*  
MA

ccs: Senator  
Senator

July 16, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals opposed to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates -- in many cases, dramatically higher rates -- for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state -- let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Senator  
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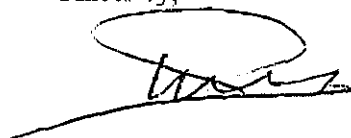
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MA 02170

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